The year was quite free from cholera; but there was a mild out-break of small-pox in the Northern Division.

A Bill to amend the Towns Conservancy and Improvement Regulation is shortly to be introduced in the Legislative Council. The unlimited appropriation of the funds of the State for the conservancy and improvement of towns is wrong in principle and unfair to the general tax-payer. With a view to introduce Municipal Government in the towns it is proposed to establish Municipal Councils, as far as possible on an electoral basis, to invest these bodies with power to raise the necessary funds and to make them responsible for the proper sanitation of the urban areas entrusted to their care.

20. **Medical Relief.**—The number of permanent medical institutions remained the same as in the previous year, *viz.* 22 Hospitals, 20 Dispensaries, 2 Asylums for lunatics and lepers and 8 grant-in-aid institutions. The total number of in-patients treated during the year was over 16,000 and of out-patients over 7,00,000. Both figures show increases over those for the previous year.

A medical conference was held in July 1905. As the outcome of the conference the Weekly and Bi-weekly Dispensaries were abolished as they were found to serve no useful purpose. The rules regarding the admission to and promotion in the grade of Assistant and Sub-Assistant Surgeons were better defined and the status of these officers was improved. The designation of the Apothecaries in the Superior Grade (Graduates) was changed to "Sub-Assistant Surgeons". It was also decided to place the Maternity and the Women and Children's Hospitals under the control of the Lady Doctor. The opening of a Dispensary at Karamanay and of an Ophthalmic Hospital at the Capital were also sanctioned. These proposals will be given effect to during the current year.

At the suggestion of the Rt. Rev. Dr. Benziger, Bishop of Quilon, it has been decided to entertain 8 Nursing Sisters in the Medical Department.

Veterinary Hospital.—269 cases were admitted for treatment during the year. There was an outbreak of glanders in the town and two horses were destroyed under special arrangements, and the private stables are now being regularly inspected.

21. **Public Instruction.**—The total number of schools in 1080 was 3,630 and the total number of scholars 1,95,999 as against 3,727 and 1,97,385 respectively in 1079. While Government and Aided Schools have increased by 97 with 4,345 scholars, the private unaided schools have decreased by 194 with 5,731 scholars, resulting in a net reduction of 97 schools and 1,386 scholars from those of the previous year. The gradual decline of the private unaided schools has been a noteworthy feature of the last few years and is a matter rather for satisfaction than for regret. For, it shews, as was explained in last year's address, that the unscientific instruction imparted in the pial schools by the old *Asans* is giving place to the better training given in Government and Aided Schools.

The percentage of pupils under instruction to the total population was 6·6 which compares favourably with 1·99 in Mysore, 3·0 in all British India, 3·09 in Madras, 4·0 in Bengal and 6·2 in Bombay.

The expenditure on Education in 1080 was 9·56 per cent of the total revenue. In Baroda the percentage is 6·5, Bengal 1·17, Bombay 1·44 and Madras 1·33.

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